(c) whether it is also a fact that CCI diverted the funds to pay the salary concerned dues instead of paying statutory dues and sold the factory to India Cements Ltd.; and

(d) by when the Cement Corporation of India will pay the dues of Yerraguntla Gram Panchayat?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) The Government is not directly responsible to make payment of statutory dues salary and wages of the employees of the Corporation. However, some budgetary support was provided to Cement Corporation of India Limited during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 for payment of salary and wages, gratuity and bonus as it was continuously making losses. As no funds were provided for payment of dues of Yerraguntla Gram Panchayat, the question of diversion of funds by the corporation does not arise. The dues of Yerraguntla Gram Panchayat is proposed to be paid by the Corporation in the 2nd phase of the Sanctioned Scheme approved by the Hon'ble Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) out of the sale proceeds of the seven non-operational plants of the Corporation.

Failure of Universal Health Insurance Scheme

*392. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Universal Health Insurance Scheme meant for health insurance of BPL families is almost of failure;

(b) if so, the number of families/persons insured during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether any study was conducted for the failure of the Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the follow-up action proposed to be taken to insure all the BPL families of the country by health insurance?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM), (a) and (b) Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHIS) could not have the response

as envisaged at the time of its launch. The progress under UHIS during the last three years is given below:

Statement

	2004-05		2005-06		Upto October, 2006	
Name of States	No. of Families	No. of Persons	No. of Families	No. of Persons	No. of Families	No. of Persons
Andhra Pradesh	18621	51222	11928	29546	512	1543
Assam	185	648	4103	5284	50	58
Bihar	0	0	40	44	0	0
Chandigarh	174	200	0	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	880	1641	0	0	0	0
Delhi	6	38	27	130	6	18
Gujarat	6775	9040	1379	1808	458	702
Himachal Pradesh	381	929	71	169	20	20
Haryana	656	1150	509	1081	10	10
J&K	168	183	81	81	0	0
Jharkhand	0	0	4	8	0	0
Karnataka	2662	8095	2533	9272	34765	80309
Kerala	24067	83761	44174	163171	17721	80247
Madhya Pradesh	962	1525	0	0	56	226
Maharashtra	3018	9875	771	3076	960	3461
Orissa	71	169	191	422	0	0
Punjab	671	745	250	250	106	106
Rajasthan	4227	9302	4416	10594	447	897
Tamil Nadu	696	2624	595	2226	73	276
U.P.	1161	1615	788	1109	25	83
Uttaranchal	323	419	4745	19530	2	10
West Bengal	14	60	0	0	27	113
TOTAL:	65718	182641	76605	247801	55238	168079

(c) and (d) The main reasons cited by the public sector general insurance companies for the slow progress under the Scheme, *inter alia,* include the following:

(i) lack of awareness and affordability of the BPL families; (ii) lack of reach of insurance companies in the rural areas; (iii) low premium structure makes it cost prohibitive for the insurance companies to effectively canvass the scheme; (iv) inadequate health infrastructure in the rural areas; (v) difficulty in identification of BPL families; and (vi) inadequate response from the State Governments in the implementation of UHls in its existing from.

To cover larger population of BPL families the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has notified 'Micro-Insurance' Regulations in November, 2005 enabling insurers to devise products, including health insurance, for low income groups. Further, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued guidelines to all States, under National Rural Health Mission, (NRHM) to develop health insurance schemes, keeping in view the local needs, with a maximum subsidy of Rs. 300/- per family for BPL population.

Security of gas pipeline from Myanmar

†393. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of gas pipeline passing through India and Myanmar;

(b) the details of States from where this pipeline would pass through and the total expenditure to be incurred thereon; and

(c) whether attention has also been paid on its security aspects, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. GAIL had envisaged the import of natural gas from Myanmar through onland pipeline from Myanmar *via* the north-eastern States of the country. For evacuation of gas from Myanmar, Gail has completed Detailed Feasibility Report.(DRF), Environment Management Plan.(EMP) and Rapid Risk Analysis study.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.